

## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY:NEA:EABINGTON

APPROVED BY:NEA:EABINGTON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 216155

NODIS

CHEROKEE

EYES ONLY FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HAROLD SAUNDERS  
FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION CAIRO INFO TEL AVIV FROM SECSTATE  
DTG 111628Z SEP 75 RPTD TO YOU.

QUOTE:

S E C R E T STATE 216155

NODIS

CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, EG

SUBJECT: ISRAELI CARGO THROUGH SUEZ CANAL

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

1. YOU SHOULD SEE FAHMY TO DISCUSS WITH HIM THE PROBLEM  
OF ARRANGING FOR PASSAGE OF AN ISRAELI CARGO THROUGH THE  
SUEZ CANAL, TELLING HIM THAT WE FULLY UNDERSTAND PROBLEM  
WHICH WOULD BE RAISED BY HAVING THE FIRST ISRAELI CARGO  
PASS THROUGH THE CANAL AT THIS TIME, PARTICULARLY GIVEN THE  
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MANNER IN WHICH THE ISRAELIS ARE PUBLICIZING THIS ISSUE.

2. YOU SHOULD ALSO MAKE CLEAR THAT WE TAKE SERIOUSLY  
PRESIDENT SADAT'S REQUEST CONVEYED THROUGH YOU THAT WE

URGE THE ISRAELIS NOT TO PRESS HIM ON THIS MATTER AT THIS DIFFICULT TIME. FACT IS, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WILL NEVER REALLY BE A GOOD TIME TO DO THIS. YOU SHOULD REMIND HIM THAT HE AND PRESIDENT SADAT TOLD ME DURING RECENT NEGOTIATIONS THAT A SHIP WITH ISRAELI CARGO COULD TRANSIT THE CANAL WHEN THE AGREEMENT WAS FIRM AND BEFORE THE KNESSET DEBATE. IN A WAY, THEREFORE, WE FEEL SOME RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS MATTER, HAVING PASSED THE FOREGOING ON TO THE ISRAELIS. OUR CONCERN IS THAT IF AN

ISRAELI CARGO IS NOT PERMITTED THROUGH IN THE NEAR FUTURE, WE FEAR THIS COULD BECOME A PUBLIC ISSUE GIVING AMMUNITION TO CRITICS OF THE NEW AGREEMENT IN ISRAEL AND HERE, AND EVEN PROVIDING A PRETEXT FOR NOT IMPLEMENTING THE AGREEMENT. INDEED THE PUBLIC POSITION OF ISRAEL IS THAT IT WILL NOT IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT UNTIL THE DISENGAGEMENT PROVISIONS ARE FILLED.

3. YOU SHOULD THEN TELL FAHMY THAT THE ISRAELIS HAVE COME TO US TO ASK THE FOLLOWING: ACTING ON THE BASIS OF MY EXCHANGE WITH BOTH PARTIES DURING THE RECENT NEGOTIATIONS, THEY HAVE LINED UP A SHIP FOR POSSIBLE TRANSIT THROUGH THE CANAL THIS WEEKEND. THE SHIP IS THE SS VALENTINE P; OF GREEK REGISTRY AND FLAG WITH MIXED GREEK AND PAKISTANI CREW; OWNER: PERTSINIS VASSILIOUS AND M. LOEB; BUILT 1945; GRT-5491; NRT - 2884; CARRIES A LOAD OF CEMENT TO ISRAEL. THE SHIP WOULD TRAVEL FROM CONSTANTIA, ROMANIA, TO ELAT, ISRAEL AND RETURN WITH LOAD OF PHOSPHATES. IT CAN REACH NORTHERN ENTRANCE OF CANAL ON SEPTEMBER 13 BUT COULD DELAY FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS, AND IS SCHEDULED TO MAKE RETURN TRIP NORTH-BOUND ABOUT SEPTEMBER 25.

4. YOU SHOULD ASK FAHMY FOR HIS FRANK JUDGMENT ON HOW TO HANDLE THIS DILEMMA. YOU CAN TELL HIM THAT IF HE AND SADAT CONCLUDE THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THEM  
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TO PERMIT A SINGLE SHIP TO TRANSIT THE CANAL PRIOR TO THE SIGNING OF THE PROTOCOL, WE WOULD SUPPORT EGYPT FULLY ON THE TRANSIT ISSUE BY TELLING THE ISRAELIS THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO REPEAT NO PUBLICITY ON THE PASSAGE OF AN ISRAELI CARGO THROUGH THE CANAL AT THIS TIME, AND THAT IF THERE SHOULD BE PUBLICITY AT LEAST BEFORE THE PROTOCOL IS SIGNED IN GENEVA, IT WILL RAISE QUESTIONS AS TO THE POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER PASSAGES. MOREOVER, WE WOULD TELL THE ISRAELIS THAT THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION OF MORE THAN ONE SHIP PASSING THROUGH FOR AT LEAST THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS AND THAT WE WOULD WISH CONSULT WITH FAHMY BEFORE ANY FURTHER TRANSITS TAKE PLACE. ON THE OTHER HAND IF THIS IS REALLY A BAD

TIME WE WILL TAKE IT UP WITH THE ISRAELIS.

5. I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE FAHMY'S REACTION AS QUICKLY  
AS POSSIBLE, SINCE I SHOULD GO BACK TO THE ISRAELIS  
ON THIS ALMOST IMMEDIATELY. KISSINGER UNQUOTE  
KISSINGER

SECRET

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